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Message Text

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63
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PER-01 SSC-01 SSO-00 /010 W
---------- 085899
O 132200Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6680

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FOR AF:C - AMBASSADOR QUAINTON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, APER, CT
SUBJECT: TENUE FOR CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

1. WAS FINALLY ABLE TODAY FOR FIRST TIME
SINCE ATTEMPTED BOKASSA ASSASSINATION TO SEE FONMIN
OFFICIAL RE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. DURING ALL-DAY TRIAL
HAD OCCASION POSE QUESTION TO FONMIN FRANCK WHO RETURNED
FEBRUARY 11 FROM PHILIPPINES.

2. WHEN I REMARKED THAT AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY FEBRUARY 12
BOTH NEW GREEK AND CANADIAN AMBASSADORS WORE MORNING COAT,
STRIPED PANTS, VEST, SILK TOP HAT, ETC., FRANCK RESPONDED
THAT EACH AMBASSADOR MAY WEAR WHAT IS CUSTOMARY IN HIS
HOME COUNTRY, THAT THERE IS NO PRESCRIBED DRESS, AND THAT MEMBERS
OF GOVERNMENT ALWAYS WEAR DARK SUITS. PRESIDENT BOKASSA ALSO
WEARS SUIT UNLESS AMBASSADOR HOLDS MILITARY RANK IN WHICH
CASE HE WEARS MARSHAL'S UNIFORM.

3. SUGGEST TO BE ON SAFE SIDE THAT YOU BRING ALONG
MORNING COAT AND TRAPPINGS IF YOU ALREADY POSSESS SUCH. IF NOT
YOU MAY WISH THINK TWICE ABOUT INVESTING IN SUCH AS IT IS
ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE ONLY TIME YOU WILL USE SUCH TENUE
DURING YOUR ASSIGNMENT HERE.

4. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR QUAINTON'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE FOR PARIS/
BANGUI PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE.
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SWING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGUI00271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760056-0429
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760253/aaaabtsi.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENUE FOR CREDENTIALS CEREMONY
TAGS: PDIP, APER, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006